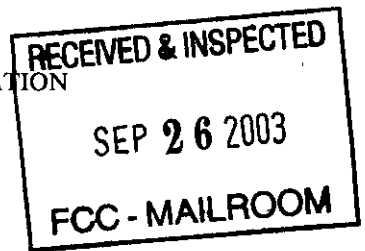


THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATION

DEPARTMENT OF  
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September 23, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: **CC Docket No. 96-45**  
**Year 2004 Certification of Rural Carriers for Receipt of High-Cost Funds**

The Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("MDTE") respectfully submits this filing in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's ("Commission") requirement that state commissions certify that rural carriers are using high-cost funds in a manner consistent with § 254(e) of the Communications Act. The MDTE certifies that the following rural carriers will use funds received for year 2004 rural high-cost support (including high-cost loop support, local switching support, high-cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high-cost model support, and hold harmless support) only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with § 254(e) of the Communications Act:

Richmond Telephone Company (study area code 110037)  
Granby Telephone & Telegraph Company (study area code 110036)  
Taconic Telephone Corp. (study area code 150084)

No. of Carriers rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABOVE \_\_\_\_\_

Should you require additional information concerning our certification, kindly contact me at (617) 305-3744.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Isenberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Michael A. Isenberg  
Director, Telecommunications Division